

## DESCRIPTION of NASA HONOR AWARDS

**NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal (DPSM)** - Is awarded to any individual who is not an employee of the Federal Government or was not a Government employee during the period in which the service was performed. The award is granted only to individuals whose distinguished accomplishments contributed substantially to the NASA mission. The contribution must have been so extraordinary that other forms of recognition by NASA would be inadequate. This is the highest honor that NASA confers on a non-Government individual.



**NASA Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)** - Is awarded to any individual in the Federal service who, by distinguished service, ability, or courage has personally made a contribution representing substantial progress to the NASA mission in the interest of the United States. The contribution must have been so extraordinary that other forms of recognition by NASA would be inadequate. This is the highest honor that NASA confers.



**NASA Equal Employment Opportunity Medal (EEOM)** - Is awarded to both Government and non-Government individuals for outstanding achievement and material contribution to the goals of NASA's Equal Employment Opportunity Programs either within the Government or within community organizations or groups. The criteria are as follows:

- Accomplishments are clearly superior in quality, scope, and impact.
- Accomplishments are explicit, demonstrate results, and are perceived as outstanding or significant by peers and impacted target groups. (More credit will be given for recent contribution(s) except in unusual circumstances where a contribution was overlooked at the time it occurred).



**NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal (EAM)** - Is awarded to any individual in the Federal service for a significant, specific accomplishment or substantial improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science, or technology which contributes to the NASA mission. The criteria are as follows:

- Work-related achievements yielding high-quality results and/or substantial improvement that support NASA's mission or organizational accomplishment.
- Innovative approaches used in the conception, design, or execution of the individual's work.
- Impact and importance of the individual's achievement to the NASA Mission Directorate's, Center's, or organizational component's goals and image.



**NASA Exceptional Administrative Achievement Medal (EAAM)** - Is awarded to any individual in the Federal service (NASA Classification 500 Group clerical/assistant and related support positions only) for a significant, specific accomplishment or contribution characterized by unusual initiative or creativity that clearly demonstrates a substantial improvement in administrative support contributing to NASA's mission, such as:

- Exceptional initiative in carrying out office/program support activities that resulted in improved processes and operations.
- Development and improvement of administrative support methods and processes that resulted in substantial benefit to the office or program.
- Notable competence and resourcefulness in accomplishing and improving office/program processes and operations.



**NASA Exceptional Bravery Medal (EBM)** - Is awarded to both Government and non-Government individuals for exemplary and courageous handling of an emergency by an individual who, independent of personal danger, has acted to prevent the loss of human life and/or Government property.



**NASA Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal (EEAM)** - Is awarded to both Government and non-Government individuals for unusually significant engineering contributions toward achieving NASA's mission. This award may be given for individual efforts or application of engineering principles/methods that have resulted in contributions of fundamental importance in this field or have significantly enhanced the understanding of this field. The criteria are as follows:

- Accomplishments are far above others in quality, scope, and impact.
- Accomplishments are explicit, demonstrate results, and are perceived as outstanding or significant by peers and impacted target groups. (More credit will be given for recent contribution(s) except in unusual circumstances where a contribution was overlooked at the time it occurred.)



**NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal (ESAM)** - Is awarded to both Government and non-Government individuals for an unusually significant scientific contribution toward achieving NASA's mission. This award may be given for individual efforts that have resulted in contributions of fundamental importance in this field or have significantly enhanced the understanding of this field. The criteria are as follows:

- Accomplishments are far above others in quality or excellence - a rare, outstanding, clearly superior achievement.
- This is a prestigious scientific award for specific, concrete scientific achievement(s). (More credit will be given for recent contribution(s), except in unusual circumstances where a contribution was overlooked at the time it occurred).



**NASA Exceptional Service Medal (ESM)** - Is awarded to any individual in the Federal service for significant, sustained performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates a substantial improvement which contributes to NASA programs. The criteria are as follows:

- Excellence and recognition of achievement that has set a benchmark for which others may strive.
- An innovative approach used in the conception, design, or execution of the Agency's projects, programs, initiatives, and activities.
- Impact and importance of the individual's service to NASA's missions and image..



**NASA Exceptional Technology Achievement Medal (ETAM)** - Is awarded to both Government and non-Government individuals for technology contributions achieved in one of the following areas:

- Early technology development significantly contributing to NASA's mission.
- Exemplary collaborative effort in achieving significant technology transfer.
- Exceptional utilization of a NASA-developed technology resulting in a significant commercial application.



**NASA Group Achievement Award (NGAA)** - Is awarded to either a group of Government employees or a group comprised of both Government and non-Government personnel for an outstanding accomplishment through the coordination of many individual efforts which have contributed substantially to NASA's mission, with explicit consideration given to

1. the quality of results and the level of impact on NASA programs or operations;
2. effective management of cost and schedule;
3. customer satisfaction;
4. team growth and capacity for future contribution; and
5. additional credit for development of innovative approaches, use of and contributions to lessons learned data banks, and/or success in responding to unforeseen crises.

Certificate  
Only

**NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal (OLM)** (Government employees only) - Is awarded for notably outstanding leadership that affects technical or administrative programs of NASA at an organizational, directorate, Agency, Government, or industry level. It is awarded for the sustained contributions of a leader's effectiveness in advancing the Agency's quality result, and building the organization's capacity for future performance while exemplifying NASA values in the work environment. The criteria are as follows:

- Demonstrated excellence in leadership performance (Ref: EPCS/SES and supervisory performance plans).
- Consistent and exemplary behavior that models NASA's core values and promotes these values within the Agency.
- Complexity of effort in terms of projects, organizations, or a wide range of personnel.
- Innovative approaches used in the conception, design, or execution of projects, programs, initiatives, and activities.

Impact and importance of work achievements to NASA's missions and image that are created by the individual's contributions and efforts.



**NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award (PSGAA)** - Is awarded to a group of non-Government personnel for an outstanding accomplishment while participating in a significant program or project that has contributed substantially to NASA's mission, with explicit consideration given to: (1) the quality of results and the level of impact on NASA programs or operations; (2) effective management of cost and schedule; (3) customer satisfaction; and (4) additional credit for development of innovative approaches and/or success in responding to unforeseen crises.

Certificate  
Only

**NASA Exceptional Public Service Medal (EPSM)** - Is awarded to any individual who was not a Government employee during the period in which the service was performed. This award is given for exceptional contributions to NASA's mission.

